**Philosophy of Teaching and Learning  
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In today’s society, classrooms are becoming more diverse than ever. In our classrooms we are encouraging and instructing students from different cultures, working with students that speak different languages, and balancing different educational abilities. We also encounter all types of students regardless of age, height, gender, and learning styles. One of the main roles as an educator is to discover how your students learn and to adapt the curriculum to fit the needs of all learners present in the classroom. Therefore, my philosophy of education revolves around balancing learning styles in the classroom, the use of differentiated instruction practices to ensure student comprehension/success occurs, and demonstrating positive role model characteristics.   
 How do teachers get students to learn? What are the most effective instructional strategies and methods in the classroom? I firmly believe that the use of differentiated instruction in the classroom is a key component that has a direct impact on student learning and achievement. The use of differentiated instruction in the classroom provides learners of all needs and abilities to become engaged and challenged throughout the day. I do not want a classroom that gives the students all the answers and information needed to simply recall on an assessment. I want to provide my students with an investigative, questioning, and analytical learning atmosphere. Throughout this process, I want to act as a guide and facilitator to the students and their learning journey. I believe that if I were to give my students all the answers and everything they needed to know, I would be cheating them. In life, people are not going to give anyone the answers or everything they need to hear. It is important for students to realize this and take it upon themselves to be responsible for their learning. A discovering atmosphere is an educational goal of mine, no matter the age of the students.   
 In order to achieve high levels of comprehension in the classroom, the students need to be actively involved with the materials that are being presented. The way to get students actively involved in lessons throughout the school day is to mold the lesson and relating activities around the students’ needs. Teachers should be flexible and have the ability to alter each lesson they present in their classroom. In addition, teachers need to enable students to experience a wide variety of activities that promote numerous learning styles and situations.   
 In addition to balancing learning styles in a classroom and providing differentiated instruction, another extremely important quality that a teacher must possess is to maintain a positive influence on his or her students. Setting a positive example and being a positive role model for any student is another lifelong educational goal.   
 A very common trend in society is growing up in homes that are headed by single parents. A large number of students in our schools come from these homes. As a teacher, it is very important to set a positive example for all students at all times. As a male in the field of Elementary Education, I feel that it is extremely important to set a positive example for all students, especially the students that are lacking a father figure in their home. If a student in my classroom needs a positive “father figure” in his or her life, my hope is that the student will know I am an additional educational, emotional, and caring resource.